

Melrose, Andrews

March-April 1915

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
"EXORDIUM, RAND"
TELEPHONE NO. GERRARD 1279.

DIRECTORS
ANDREW MELROSE.
GEOFFREY S. CHURCH.
REGINALD R. MERTON.

Personal 569
ANDREW MELROSE, L^{TD},
3, YORK STREET,
COVENT GARDEN,
W.C.

17th. March, 1915.

Dear Sir,

On the suggestion of my friend President W. Douglas Mac-
kenzie, of Hartford, Connecticut, I am venturing to put before
you some considerations which will help you to view favourably
Hope Cranstoun Metcalfe as a candidate for the Chair of English
Literature in your University. I do this from the point of view
of a fairly extensive student of English Literature, with an im-
mense belief in its influence on life and character, and some
knowledge of the qualities that are essential in a teacher who
would communicate the love of literature to others.

Mr. Metcalfe is first of all a scholar in grain, with the
scholar's instinct for research, accuracy and detail. These cha-
racteristics have come under my notice during the last ten years,
when he has been writing books and introductions for my Firm, and
at the present moment when he is engaged on a history of Poland.

Mr. Metcalfe has I believe a real flame for literature for
its own sake. To him it has never been a means to an end, commer-
cial or other, but an end in itself; and while he could never have
the intensity of Masson of Edinburgh, his quiet sincerity of be-
lief could not fail to communicate its influence to any student
who came under his care.

It is difficult, and almost useless in my opinion, to

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particularise on the periods of literature in which Mr. Metcalfe is versed; generally, he is extremely well up in English Literature, and I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that he would acquit himself well as a teacher in any of its departments, at any rate from the Elizabethan Period to our own time. He has specialised in three departments, poetry, the essay, and fiction, and has himself produced creditable examples of all ~~three~~. For example, in fiction "Peaceable Fruit"; in the essay "The Lowly Estate"; in poetry "Amor Immortalis". In critical studies his work has been generally ephemeral, but creditable examples of it are in permanent form in introductions to Arthur Warwick's "Spare Minutes" and Willmott's "Pleasures of Literature".

Mr. Metcalfe was educated at All Hallows, Honiton, and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. He read for classical honours, but considerations of health prevented him from taking a degree. He has an exceptionally full and accurate knowledge of Latin, and knows Virgil practically by heart.

As to his qualifications for teaching; during the last twenty years he has frequently had coaching work and has successfully passed pupils in various examinations. In fact he is, to my knowledge, a sympathetic and successful teacher.

For the present I confine myself to a personal testimonial to Mr. Metcalfe's qualifications. It is backed, however, by the

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press notices of his book of essays which you will find in the enclosed leaflet; if you want his candidature to go further, I believe he could get some testimonials to his worth from distinguished men. It only remains to say that Mr. Metcalfe is a gentleman by birth, and a man of cultivated address and dignified manners, and that he has what may broadly be termed the Christian view of life.

I am, Yours Faithfully,

Andrew Melrose

The Rev, R.A. Falconer, D.D., D.Litt.,
The University,
Toronto, Canada.

April 22nd, 1915

Andrew Melrose, Esq.,

3 York Street,

Covent Garden, W.C.

Dear Sir:

I referred your letter, containing your recommendation of Mr. Hope Cranstoun Metcalfe, for the chair in English, to our Professor of English. He is afraid that Mr. Metcalfe would not meet the requirements of the position as he has then in view. There will be a good deal of routine work that will demand not so much literary skill as exact scholarship in certain branches of English Literature. I thank you, however, for your letter, though I regret that I am unable to answer it more favourably.

Yours sincerely,

President.

